

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012299

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SERV, US, CA

SUBJECT: ATIKOKAN TALKS

1. FYI: ON JANUARY 11, CANADIAN OFFICIALS MET WITH A U.S. TEAM FROM STATE, EPA, MINNESOTA AND THE FOREST SERVICE TO DISCUSS ATIKOKAN GENERATING STATION. THE CANADIANS REJECTED A U.S. PROPOSAL FOR THE REDUCTION OF SULFUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM THE PLANT BY 50 PERCENT, SAYING THAT CONCENTRATIONS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN THE U.S. AS ESTIMATED BY BOTH U.S. AND CANADIAN MODELLING STUDIES WOULD FALL FAR BELOW THE RANGE AT WHICH INJURIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ARE KNOWN TO OCCUR. (ANNUAL CONCENTRATIONS PREDICTED BY BOTH STUDIES WOULD AVERAGE LESS THAN 1 MICROGRAM PER CUBIC METER, THE LOWEST KNOWN EFFECT IS ON LICHENS AT APPROXIMATELY 50 MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METER.)

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2. THE U.S. SIDE THEN TABLED A REFERENCE TO THE IJC FOR STUDY OF THE STATION AND ITS IMPACTS. THE CANADIANS HAVE AGREED TO CONSIDER THIS, ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES OF THEIR ACCEPTING THE DOCUMENT, WHICH CONTAINS A PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY CONSTRUCTION TENDING TO PREJUDGE THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION STUDY, I.E., THEY MUST MAKE PROVISION FOR THE RETRO-FITT-

ING OF SCRUBBERS, IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

3. THE CANADIAN TEAM, WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ONTARIO-HYDRO AND THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY, DETAILED THEIR PLANS FOR MONITORING THE EMISSIONS AND EFFECTS OF THE PLANT. THE U.S. TEAM AGREED TO STUDY THEIR PROPOSED SYSTEM OF MONITORING AND THE CANADIANS IN TURN, HAVE AGREED TO CONSIDER FURTHER OUR DRAFT REFERENCE.

4. ROOM FOR COMPROMISE LIES BETWEEN THESE TWO POSITIONS AND WE EXPECT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING PROGRAM, HOPEFULLY SUPERVISED BY THE IJC. ALTHOUGH THIS OUTCOME WILL BE SUBJECTED TO SEVERE CRITICISM FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SIMPLY DOES NOT EXIST TO SUPPORT A MORE FORCEFUL STANCE THAT CONCENTRATIONS IN U.S. WILL DEFINATELY BE ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS. OUR CALL FOR PROTECTION TO COVER PRESENTLY UNKNOWN EFFECTS, WHILE MANDATED BY U.S. LEGISLATION, IS DEEMED 'UNNECESSARY" BY BOTH CANADIAN FEDERAL, AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS.

5. TO COUNTER CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN SUBJECT AND CRITICISM OF CANADIAN LAWS PERMITTING MUCH GREATER RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS THAN PERMITTED IN U.S., WE INTEND GRADUAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN U.S. PREMATURE RELEASE TO CANADIAN OFFICIALS OF OUR ASSESSMENT IN PARAGRAPH 4 WOULD MAKE ISSUE RESOLUTION MORE DIFFICULT. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: SENV, US, CA
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Type: TE
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